

U.S.S.N. 10/707,232

-12-

140808 MG (GEMS 0232 PA)

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are currently pending in the above application. The withdrawal of claims 17-22 is herein acknowledged.

The drawings stand objected to because the Examiner believes all rectangular boxes in Figure 1 should be labeled per 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). Applicants respectfully disagree, noting that all rectangular boxes are numbered, in that the RF body coil assembly 8, static magnet structure 12, and gradient coil assembly 52 extend both above and below the patient 6. However, in an attempt to move this case towards allowance, Applicants have added labels to all rectangular boxes both above and below patient 6. Reconsideration of Figure 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eberler et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,693) in view of Nerreter (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,537). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. However, in an effort to move this case towards allowance, Applicant has made several amendments to the claims as described in the following paragraphs that the Examiner has indicated would result in allowable claims.

First, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 5 and cancelled claim 5 without prejudice. Applicant has also amended claim 2 to correct two minor informalities. As a result of these changes, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, and 15 are now allowable.

Also, Applicant has introduced new independent claim 32, which combines the subject matter of original claims 1, 2 and 4. Applicant has also added dependent claims 33-34, which mirror previous dependent claims 3 and 5, respectively. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 32-34 are allowable.

In addition, Applicant has introduced new independent claim 35, which combines the subject matter of original claims 1 and 9. Applicant has also corrected the dependencies of claims 10-13 and 16, respectively, to properly depend from new claim 35. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 35, 10-14, and 16 are now allowable.

U.S.S.N. 10/707,232

-13-

140808 MG (GEMS 0232 PA)

Further, Applicant has amended claim 23 to include the subject matter of claim 26 and cancelled claim 23 without prejudice. Applicant has also corrected the dependencies on claims 27 and 28 to coincide with the amendment to claims 23 and 26. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 23-25 and 27-28 are now allowable.

Finally, Applicant has introduced new claim 41 that combines the subject matter of claims 23 and 29. Applicant has also amended original claims 30 and 31 to depend from new claim 41. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 41, 30 and 31 are now allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-16, 23-25, 27-28, and 30-41 are allowable. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (248) 223-9500 if any unresolved matters remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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